

# Youth Transition into the Workplace

Chicanos Por La Causa  
Tucson, AZ



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention  
[www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

# Grant Team

- Project Director
  - Tillie Arvizu, Principal Investigator
- Other Key Personnel
  - Jill Bemis, Project Manager
  - Laura Luna, Curriculum Specialist
  - Roxanna Noperi, Community Development Specialist
  - Rebecca Hill, Evaluator



# Partnering Worksites

- We are working with the following organizations to confirm worksites that will participate:
  - Pima County One Stop—Art Eckstrom, Director
  - Hispanic Chamber of Commerce—Fred Orozco, President
  - Pima Community College—Roy Flores, Chancellor



# Goals

- Phase I
  - Refine and evaluate the Corazon de Aztlan Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum
  - Pilot test the refined curriculum
- Phase II
  - Complete development and testing of the model
  - Submission for NREPP status



# Target Population

- Low income, primarily Latino youth, ages 16 to 24, who are working at least part-time
- Working high school students
- Entry-level employees in fast food, construction, retail, and service industries



# Implementation History

- Substance abuse and HIV prevention curriculum developed through SAMHSA grant
- Implemented with over 400 high school youth
- Preliminary results show decreased alcohol, marijuana, and cigarette use on post-tests



# Primary Components

- Establish an employer and stakeholder Advisory Board
- Refine Corazon de Aztlan curriculum
- Conduct outreach to engage employers
- Conduct youth survey of substance use and receptiveness to proposed intervention
- Pilot test the curriculum (Phase I)
- Systematic implementation of the curriculum (Phase II)



# Delivery Mechanism

- CPLC staff facilitate curriculum at employer sites





# Products

- Well documented, culturally-based curriculum
- Staff training manual for facilitators
- Replication manual



# Expected Intermediate and Long-Term Outcomes

- Decreased tardiness, absences, workplace accidents, and employee turnover
- Increased employee knowledge of substance abuse issues; decreased substance abuse
- Replicable workplace substance abuse prevention program

